



Principal's Message

TERM ONE, WEEK THREE

Kia Ora Koutou,

I was recently talking to someone about Leadership opportunities for youth in schools. Then for whatever reason I wondered 'what is leadership?'. Do we create leadership courses because we see those who are selected as possessing leadership ability and capable to be the ones who will take charge? Or is everyone capable of leadership but what we are in fact doing is cultivating the qualities and skills of a person to be the leader of themselves and that we need to remind everyone that 'you are the leader of you'.

What is leadership, really?

Leadership is indicated as soon as you get a badge – is it though?

Leadership is a title- is it though?

Leadership is a special role reserved for a select few- is it though?

It is not something that only certain students "just have" while others do not. In truth, leadership begins long before someone is chosen for any role – as a prefect, a peer mentor, a team captain, or a head student. It begins inside everyone—quietly, and long before you even realise it.

Leadership is the set of choices we make every day: to be responsible for our actions, to treat others with kindness, to speak up when something isn't right, to try again when things are hard, to influence our environment in positive, meaningful ways.

Leadership is not a position, but a practice.

"You are the leader of you"

For our young people, especially those in Years 7–13 who are learning who they are and who they want to become, this statement is powerful. You are the leader of you, you are the captain of your first team and you are the soul member of that team.

As the leader of team YOU: Choose how you show up each day; to class, to sports, to friends. You decide what effort, attitude, and energy you bring; **Guide your own learning.** Your teachers and parents can support you, but the curiosity, drive, and courage to push forward come from you; **Decide the kind of person you want to be.** Your values, your kindness, your resilience—these are acts of leadership that shape your life and influence others; **Influence those around you, even without noticing.** Younger students watch you. Your peers are affected by your choices. Your leadership has impact even in the smallest moments.

So why do we offer leadership opportunities in schools?

Not to "pick the best", but to **cultivate what already exists in every student.** Leadership programmes, roles, and experiences simply shine a light on the skills that can grow in every young person: initiative, teamwork, empathy, self-discipline, problem-solving, and confidence. Schools provide leadership opportunities because leadership itself is not about being in charge—it's about learning to take charge of yourself.

And when a young person learns to lead themselves well, they tend to be better equipped to lead others with integrity, humility, and courage.

A message

To our students- leadership is not something you wait to be given. It is something you grow. Every day you make choices that shape who you are becoming. So what matters? - Your voice. Your character. And your ability to influence the world begins with the way you lead yourself.

To our parents and caregivers-every young person has leadership potential-not because they are loud, confident, or outgoing, but because leadership is built through their good habits, support, and encouragement. When young people know that their strengths are noticed and their efforts matter, they begin to see themselves as capable contributors. Your guidance, conversations, and example at home play a huge role in helping them grow into leaders of character and purpose.

Dare I say kind that, humble, courageous, generous, and decent students are raised by kind, humble, courageous, generous, and decent parents.

Bell-to-bell for our big gals

I was trying to make this rhyme.

On Thursday the 12 and 13 cohorts were reminded again of the importance the play as role models so they will also be part of the bell-to-bell process when they are onsite. Their phones will be collected by house by their deans and senior managers. This begins next week.

I've shaped it into a statement you can use as a theme or headline, followed by an explanation written in a warm, school-community tone.

"It's Time to Step Off the Bridge of Adolescence"

As a parent of children in their 30s (I know it is hard to believe right- thank you) I can say with authority that as parents and caregivers, we walk beside our young people for many years. We guide them, protect them, encourage them, and help them across the many "bridges" of childhood. But there comes a point-usually between the ages of 11 and 18-when we must begin to step off the bridge and allow them to walk on their own.

Let me be clear that this does not mean stepping away from our children. It means stepping back enough so they can step forward.

I had to let them: use their own voice, remember their own equipment, manage their own deadlines, approach teachers when they need help, feel the natural consequences of their choices, learn from mistakes rather than be shielded from them.

This is not about letting go-it's about growing their independence.

For students in Years 7-13, these skills are not optional; they are essential. Our role as adults is to teach them how to be safe, how to think critically, and how to act responsibly. But ultimately, they are the ones who must practise independence, problem-solving, and self-management.

When we as parents stay on the bridge too long-carrying everything, reminding everything, fixing everything-young people never learn to cross it on their own. And this is where their real confidence comes from.

Have a safe and happy weekend

Ngā Mihi



Kia Ora Koutou.

If you have been into St Matthew's this week, you would have noticed our grounds were hit hard by the recent stormy weather. For those in boarding on Sunday night, it was indeed a little on the scary side. Miss McCoy our House Manager on duty in Mainhouse on Sunday, kindly gave our younger boarders the option of sleeping in the junior hallway away from windows in the hope of a quieter night's sleep. While some were happy to stay in their rooms, others jumped at the chance of sleeping next to their fellow boarders which made for a fantastic photo opportunity. Front to back- Michelle, Ilex, Suzy, Ella, Emilie and Melody.

Part time boarders should now have confirmed their nights for Term 1. This means nights cannot be changed during the term. However, if boarders need to board on a different night, an extra one off casual night could be an option. Weekly or full boarders, please complete the catering sheet in the boarding office each week to indicate whether you are requiring meals or not over the weekend. If parents/ caregivers would like to set up a reoccurring Orah pass, please email us with the days your daughter is returning/ leaving boarding and her mode of transport each way.

Contact details- We have a new phone system in place. Please note the correct contact information

Main House: 06 370-0067 ext 8953 or 027 598 4404 Email: mainhouse@trinityschools.nz

Hampton House: 06 370-0067 ext 8744 or 027 426 7866 Email: hamptonhouse@trinityschools.nz

Director of Boarding: 06 370-0067 ext 8713 or 027 766 1360 Email: jo.booth@trinityschools.nz

Wishing you all a fabulous day of athletics on Friday and a happy weekend.

Jo



Boarding



Integrated Activity Schedule

Integrated Activities Schedule

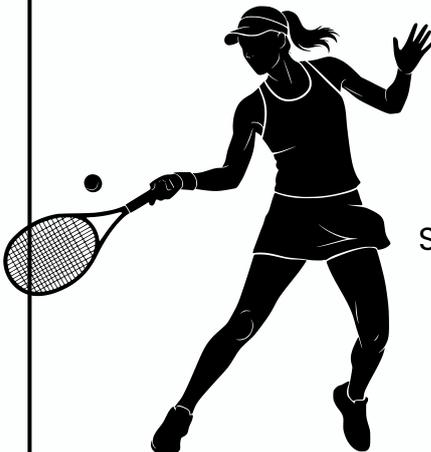
Week 1 Term 4
Monday Feb 23rd - Sunday Mar 1st

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Itinerant Teachers Onsite	Deborah Percy (Voice) David Heath (Drums)	Deborah Percy (Voice)	Deborah Percy (Voice) Thomas Nikora (Piano)	Deborah Percy (Voice) Thomas Nikora (Piano) Kate Marshall (Piano/Flute)	Kate Marshall (Piano/Flute)		
Before School / All Day					Schola Cantorum Choir Camp (Riversdale)	Schola Cantorum Choir Camp (Riversdale)	Schola Cantorum Choir Camp (Riversdale)
During School	1:15-2:00pm Shakespeare Practice (Hall) Swimming Pool open - Lunch time 1:10-1:55pm Junior Dance Troupe @ Lazarus	1:15-2:00pm Shakespeare Practice (Hall) Swimming pool open- lunch time	1:30-2:00pm Junior Choir Rehearsal (Music Suite) Swimming Pool open- lunch time 1st XI Cricket vsTBC	1:15-2:00pm Kapa Haka (Music Suite)	1:15-2:00pm Shakespeare Practice (Hall) Jazz Band (Music Suite)		
After School	3:30pm - 4:15pm - Tennis - lessons Starlings and Slicers 4:15pm - 5pm Tennis lessons - Aces and hitters 5pm - 6pm Regional 1,2+3 Tennis Training 3:15pm-4:30pm Futsal @ WaiCol turf SMS vs Solway 3.30pm KO Mrs Seitshiro collect Rathkeale 3pm. Main House 3.15pm Volleyball Inrs @ Makoura College SMS Lynx vs Solway 2 3:40pm Court 3 Van Departs 3:20pm Pick Up 4:10pm SMS Panthers vs Wai Col Team Blue 4:05 pm Court 2 SMS Cheetahs vs Wai Col Team Gold 4:05pm Court 3 Van Departs 3:45pm Pick Up 4:30pm 3:30-4:15pm Swim Club @ St Matts pool 3:30pm - 4:30pm Cricket Training Primary Green and Gold	3:30-5:30pm Cricket training 1st XI 3:30pm-4:30pm Touch Rugby Falcons & Eagles Training @ SMS Field Volleyball Snrs @ Makoura College SMS Leopards vs Wharekure Tuakana 3:40pm Court 2 Van Departs 3:20pm Pick up 4:10pm SMS 13s vs KC B 4:05pm Court 1 SMS Lionesses vs Wai Col 4:05pm Court 2 Van Departs 3:45pm Pick Up 4:30pm	3:15pm Primary Cricket Games SMS Primary Green vs Lakeview Girls 3:45pm @ Lakeview SMS Primary Gold vs Hadlow Girls 3:45pm @ Hadlow vans depart 3.15pm for both venues 3:30-4:15pm Senior Dance Troupe @ Lazarus	4:00-5:30pm Schola Cantorum (Hall) 3:30-4:30pm Cricket training Development Touch Rugby @ Makoura College SMS Jays vs SMS Ravens vs SMS Robins vs Van departs 3.15pm & pick up 4.20pm SMS Hawks vs Van departs 3.45pm & pick up 4.55pm SMS Eagles vs SMS Falcons vs Vans depart 5pm & pick up 6.10pm 6:00pm Regional 3 Tennis Games SMS White V Opaki @ Opaki SMS Gold V Wai Col @ SMS SMS Green V Martinborough @ Martinborough *girls to book van runs if required* 3:20pm-4:00pm Tennis Lessons Primary 4:00pm-4:40pm Tennis Lessons Secondary Primary Touch Rugby SMS Primary Green vs Lakeview Canes 5pm Field 2 (Van departs 4.30pm pick up at 5.30pm) SMS Primary Gold vs Chanel 5.30pm Field 1 (Van departs 5pm pick up 6pm)	3:30pm-6pm Tennis - Junior interclub games SMS Slicers VS SMS Hitters (St Matt's) MTC White VS SMS Starlings (MTC) SMS Aces VS Greytown Team 3 (Greytown Tennis Centre)		Pre-season Winter Sport Sessions 6-7:30pm Netball Yr 9-13s SMS Gym Football All year groups SMS Field Hockey Yr 9-13s SMS Turf

Sports Results Week 2

Regional 3 Tennis

SMS Gold vs WaiCol Blue - SMS Gold win
SMS White vs Opaki - SMS White win
SMS Green vs Martinborough - SMS Green loss

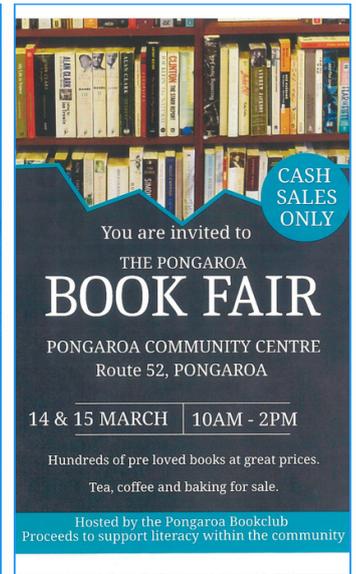


Around School

Library donates deselected books to Pongaroa book fair

Books and magazines taken out of the Library collection in 2025 have been donated to the Pongaroa bookfair which is to be held on 14 & 15 March. Previously deselected books have been distributed around Masterton so it is good to be donating them to a rural community this year.

Pictured: Lyn Woodhouse who collected the donations and Christina Bate, school Librarian.



Karaitianatanga / Christianity Alive

Baptism – A Step of Faith

Recently in Senior Chapel, we have been reflecting on the meaning of **baptism** – a special and joyful milestone in the life of a believer. Baptism is an outward sign of an inward faith, symbolising new life in Christ and a commitment to follow Him.

The Bible reminds us:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” – Matthew 28:19

“Nā reira haere, meinga ngā iwi katoa hei ākongā māku, iriiria rātou i runga i te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tama, o te Wairua Tapu.”

Baptism points us to the transforming work of Jesus – dying to our old life and rising again with Him:

“We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too may live a new life.” – Romans 6:4

“Nā, kua tanumia tahitia tātou ki a ia, he mea nā te iriiri ki roto ki te mate, kia rite ai ki a te Karaiti i whakaarahia ake i te hunga mate... kia haere ai hoki tātou i te ora hou.”

As a Christian school community, we encourage those who would like to be baptised to do so and celebrate them as they take this step of faith. If you would like to be baptised or would like your daughter to talk with me about it, please make contact.

May we continue to encourage one another to grow in faith, obedience and love as we walk together in Christ.

“Kia ū ki te whakapono.” – Stand firm in the faith. (1 Corinthians 16:13)





**Coffee Training for YR 11
with barista trainer Finley**



Wednesday 18th February saw our largest interschool at Solway Showgrounds. With over 140 entries the day was long, hot, but it ran extremely well. Thank you to all that were involved and to the volunteers who helped make the day run.



Yr 11 dance students learning the famous ballet 'Dance of the Cygnets' in preparation for their year 11 performance Anastasia

This weekend Zena Cole will be competing at the NZ Junior Dragster Championships held at Meremere in the Waikato. It's a competitive field with some entrants competing Internationally. Zena is hoping to hit 135 km/ph this weekend while finishing her races as close to 7.90 secs as possible. Often only thousandths of a second can be the difference of winning or losing.
Best of Luck Zena!



SMOGA Grants Now Open!

The St Matthew's Old Girls' Association (SMOGA) is delighted to open applications for two exciting student opportunities



Outward Bound Grant – A \$2,500 grant (incl. GST) toward an 8-day or 21-day Teen Outward Bound course.

Apply here: <https://forms.gle/GWIRJ4qiwJ4tCboK7>

Spirit of Adventure Grant – A fully funded voyage aboard the Spirit of New Zealand.

Apply here: <https://forms.gle/xDER84v7JRyi2b9Y8>

These grants are open to current students in Years 11–13 who are either daughters, nieces, or granddaughters of SMOGA members, or who join SMOGA as part of the application process.

For full details, please visit:

www.stmatts.school.nz/academic/scholarships/

Uniform Shop hours for 2026

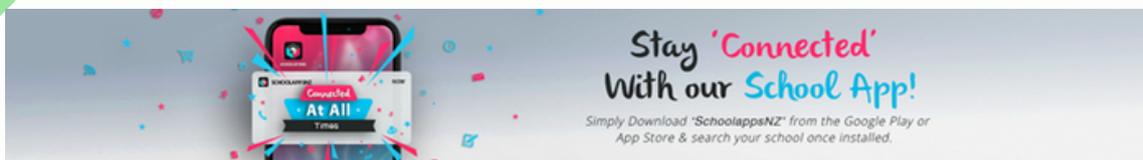
New opening hours: Thursdays 1pm– 4pm during term time.

If you would like to arrange an appointment outside these hours, please email Juliet Smith: smcsuniforms@trinityschools.nz or sm.uniforms@trinityschools.nz
New Zoggs togs available at the St Matthew's uniform shop @\$49.00 for women's, girls' sizes @\$40.00. Caps are available from the school office for \$3.50

Uniform information:

<https://www.stmatts.school.nz/parents/uniform/>

SECOND
HAND



Key Dates:

Wednesday 25 Feb – Whanganui Collegiate Fixture

Friday 27 Feb – Sun 1 Mar – Choir Camp

Tuesday 3 Mar Scots College Summer Fixture

Tuesday 3 Mar – Yr7 Vaccination

Wednesday 4 Mar – Dessert Dance

Wednesday 4 Mar – World Shears Competition Starts

Friday 6 Mar – SMCS Swimming Sports

Friday 6 Mar – Yr 9/10/11 Parent Meetings

Saturday 7 Mar – Exeat Weekend

2026 Term Dates

Term One – Monday 2nd
February to Thursday 2nd April

Term Two – Monday 20th April to
Friday 3rd July

Term Three – Monday 20th July
to Friday 25th September

Term Four – Monday 12th
October to Saturday 5 December





What's on the menu this week?



Launch the Camera App and aim your camera at the QR Code to scan it.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Please let us know if your contact details have changed



sm.office@trinityschools.nz

or complete a change request through KAMAR

TRUST HOUSE

SUMMER HUMMER

CHAI

SUPPORTED BY
FRANKIE VENTER

TICKETS ON
EVENTFINDER

SUPPORT ACTS

CULTURE EMBASSY • MACEO FIELD • LUCAS STONELEY
TOM FAR • THE YOUNG FELLAS • RUBY BREMNER

SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY

QUEEN ELIZABETH SPORTS GROUND - MASTERTON

Expressions of Interest Open

FOR OUR

2026

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Spaces available for
\$10 music lessons
in our scholarship programme

APPLY NOW!

Don't Miss Out!

<https://forms.gle/6jMb8AXp5Wd54k4CA>

Are you our next Youth Council member?



- Are you aged 12-24 and live in Masterton?
- Want to make a difference in the community and shape our future?

The Masterton Youth Council is recruiting now. Apply today!

Closes Sunday 1 March.

Masterton Youth Council

youthcouncil@mstn.govt.nz



TAMA
Te Ao Mārama Aotearoa

NEURODIVERSITY Awareness Wānanga

Understand and support our neurodiverse whānau

18 March

9 AM – 3 PM

Te Rangimarie Marae



Scan the code to register by 10 March or contact:
Marama 0223522678 marama.eddie@xtra.co.nz



Breast Cancer Foundation NZ is bringing breast health to you

Get free breast health advice from our Pink Campervan Breast Nurses. No appointment needed.

We're visiting towns near you. It's important to take time for your health so come say hi and have a cuppa.

Find out more:
bcf.org.nz/pink-campervan



MRC

Manaia RC Raceway
Radio Control Car Racing
Solway Showgrounds Masterton

Next Meeting

22nd February

Practice on Tuesdays from 4.30 pm
weather permitting

Spectators free No dogs

info.manaia.rc@gmail.com